

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 07355 212233Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2252
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

S E C R E T ROME 7355

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO IT UR
SUBJECT: ITALIAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHIP REPAIR
FACILITIES IN NAPLES
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PAGE 02 ROME 07355 212233Z

REF: STATE 101026 DTG 200131Z APR 78; ROME 7167 (NOTAL)

1. DCM MET WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS BOTTAI
AT LATTER'S REQUEST ON EVENING APRIL 17 TO DISCUSS HOW SUBJECT OF
SOVIET VESSEL ACCESS TO REPAIR FACILITIES IN ITALIAN
PORTS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN NATO. BOTTAI WENT OVER

ITALIAN POSITION IN LOW KEY: THE ITALIANS DON'T WANT THE SUBJECT RAISED IN A FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING AS PART OF A FORMAL AGENDA; HOWEVER, THEY RECOGNIZE ITS IMPORTANCE, ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT, AND DO NOT SEEM ADVERSE TO TAKING THE LEAD; CATALANO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT. DCM USED OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER U.S. ATTITUDE AS DESCRIBED IN EARLIER TRAFFIC (STATE 101026 HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED) AND MENTIONED TO BOTTAI HIGH (AND GROWING) LEVEL OF U.S. SIXTH FLEET REPAIR EXPENDITURES IN ITALIAN PORTS, PARTICULARLY IN NAPLES.

2. ROME'S 7167 (NOTAL) REFERRED TO DISCUSSION APRIL 17 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IN WHICH THE PM RAISED MATTER OF SOVIET PRESSURES (IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT) FOR SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES. THE PM WELCOMED DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE IN NATO. IN ORDER TO FEND OFF DOMESTIC PRESSURES HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OF U.S. SHIP REPAIR ACTIVITY IN NAPLES YARDS IN RECENT YEARS. WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER THAT AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR HIM. WE WILL PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION TO NATO FOR BACKGROUND AND POSSIBLE USE WITH THE ITALIAN DELEGATION. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

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